
MEETING	EXECUTIVE MEMBERS FOR CHILDRENS SERVICES AND ADVISORY PANEL
DATE	19 JULY 2007
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS ASPDEN (EXECUTIVE MEMBER), RUNCIMAN (EXECUTIVE MEMBER), ALEXANDER (CHAIR), BROOKS, FIRTH, GUNNELL, MERRETT, D'AGORNE. STATUTORY CO-OPTED MEMBERS MR J BAILEY NON STATUTORY CO-OPTED MEMBERS MS F BARCLAY, MRS J ELLIS, MR M THOMAS
APOLOGIES	DR D SELICK, MRS A BURN, MS B REAGAN, MR M GALLOWAY

12. Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare, at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. The following general personal non- prejudicial interests were declared.

Councillor Runciman	Governor of Joseph Rowntree School Trustee of the Theatre Royal
Councillor Alexander	Employee at York St John's University
Councillor Aspden	Governor of Knavesmire Primary School Member of National Union of Teachers (NUT) Teacher at Norton College, Malton, North Yorkshire
Councillor Firth	Governor of Wigginton Primary School Wife is a Member of the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)
Councillor Gunnell	Son at Millthorpe School
Councillor Merrett	Child at St Paul's Primary School
Councillor D'Agorne	Governor of Fishergate School York College employee – Information Advice & Guidance for Young People
Councillor Brooks	Member of Association of Teachers and Lecturers Lecturer employed by City College, Manchester

Mr J Bailey	Governor of Huntington Secondary School LEA Governor of Huntington Primary School
Dr D Sellick	Governor of Derwent Infant and Junior School
Ms F Barclay	Teacher at All Saints School and ATL Branch Secretary for City of York
Mrs J Ellis	Governor of Burton Green Primary School Governor of Canon Lee School
Mrs A Burn	Head teacher and Governor of Yearsley Grove School Secretary of the York branch of the NAHT
Ms B Reagan	Teacher at Joseph Rowntree School SENCO Secretary of York Association of the National Union of Teachers
Mr M Thomas	Secretary of York Association of NASUWT

Councillor Merrett declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 7 (School Meals: Increase in Prices) as his daughter has school meals. He left the room and took no part in the discussions.

13. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting held on 12th June 2007 be approved and signed as a correct record.

14. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation scheme.

Councillor Healey spoke on Agenda Item 8 (Options for the Selection of a Children and Young People's Champion). Councillor Healey felt that option 1, 2 and 3 in the report were not attractive to young people and therefore proposed a fourth option. He said that, utilising the recent investment in ICT across York's Schools, that an interactive event along the lines of 'Pop Idol' for the candidates presentation and the 'Eurovision Song Contest' for the voting. The event would be web delivered with the children and young people being given an opportunity to put questions to the candidates. He also said that York St John's University would be happy to be involved in the project.

Councillor Scott, the current Children and Young People's Champion, spoke on Agenda Item 8 (Options for the Selection of a Children and Young People's Champion.) He was disappointed that he had not been consulted on the paper and felt that there had not been enough consultation with young people. He said that there would be logistical and legal problems if a young and/or independent person was nominated. An

elected Member would be able to speak at Full Council without being bound by the three minute rule linked to public participation. He felt that the recommended option should be option 1 with some amendment. He supported the use of ICT in the election but was conscious that this could create logistical problems within school timetables. He also suggested that his term of office as Children's Champion be extended until May in order for the selection process to be arranged properly.

15. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the press and public be excluded from the meeting prior to consideration of annex 2 (School Meals: Increase in Prices) on the grounds that it contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Authority). This information is classed as exempt under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) Order 2006.

16. Raising Expectation Green Paper

Members considered a report that summarised the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) Green Paper on 'Raising Expectations: Staying in Education and Training Post 16' which was published in April 2007. Although it is for information only, the report provides essential background information for members to advise on decisions about the future pattern of Post 16 provision in the City.

The Green Paper proposes:

- All young people should participate in education and training until their 18th birthday...
- at school, in a college, in Work Based Learning (WBL) or through accredited training provided by an employer...
- working towards accredited qualifications...
- attending full time (at least 16 hours per week) if not in employment...
- and part time (about a day per week) if employed for a t least 20 hours per week.

Members discussed the importance of how this would link with the proposed development within York itself and felt that it was difficult to predict what jobs would be in York in 7 years time . They discussed the part that apprenticeships would play and felt that many of the industries that would normally provide this kind of training were in decline.

Members discussed the specialised diplomas that were being offered in York from September 2008; these were to be in Health Care & Society and Manufacturing. Officers reported that there was also approval for two other specialised diplomas to start in 2009. Members agreed that it was

important that the courses offered should reflect the future jobs that would be available in York.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised:

- (i) That the Green Paper and the response of the Local Authority be noted.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To inform future decisions about the provision of opportunities for 16-19 year olds in the city.

17. School Admissions September 2008

Members considered a report that proposed the individual school maximum admission limits for the academic year beginning in September 2008.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised:

- (i) That the proposed individual school maximum admission limits for the academic year beginning in September 2008, as detailed in Annexes A and B of the report, be approved.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To comply with statutory requirements.

18. School Meals: Increase in prices

Members considered a report relating to the financial position regarding the school meal service provided by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). The report asked for the views of the Executive Members regarding options to address the significant loss that is being incurred on this contract.

It was reported that negotiations with NYCC regarding this year's price increase had been delayed due to uncertainty regarding the costs arising from the Job Evaluation (JE) exercise that has now been completed in NYCC. It was noted that 60% of the cost of a school meal was labour cost.

Despite the efforts of the catering staff and staff in many schools, the take-up rate of hot meals in primary schools in York varies from 16% to 61% with an average of around 33% in 2006/2007. The price of a school meal in York was not subsidised therefore the prices in York were quite high.

Members felt that the financial problems needed to be addressed but without taking away any nutritional value from the meals provided.

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised:

- (i) That Option 3 be approved, increasing the selling price of primary school meals to £1.90 in October 2007;
- (ii) That it be agreed that the Local Authority contribute to the joint review of the school meals service and options for future delivery, as proposed by North Yorkshire County Council.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To ensure the continuation of the school meals service provided by North Yorkshire County Council.

19. Options for the Selection of a Children and Young People's Champion

Members considered a report that reviewed the process used in 2006 to select a Champion for Children and Young People and asks the Executive Member to determine the arrangements for the coming year.

Although this appointment has been a success, some criticisms were made of the selection process, most notably that there were no clear election rules, as a consequence of which young people did not all have a similar understanding of the process or an equal opportunity to make their voice heard. There was also a lack of clarity about the conduct of the hustings and the publication of election material.

The review was also asked to consider whether the post might be opened up to an independent person, rather than an elected Member.

At a recent meeting of the Young People's Working Group the following recommendations were made to the Executive Members for Children's Services and Advisory Panel:

- (i) That, due to the Council's Constitution, the Children's and Young People's Champion should be an elected Member, as the Constitution could not easily be changed
- (ii) That Councillor Scott's term as Children's and Young People's Champion be extended until May 2008 until the process of selection has been approved

- (iii) That the election of the Children's and Young Person's Champion be moved to May rather than October
- (iv) That Officers bring a report to the next meeting of the Young Person's Working Group regarding other options for the selection of a Children's and Young People's Champion including the possibility of electronic voting, making option 1 in the current report more feasible (especially financially)

The Director of Learning, Culture and Children's Services clarified that there had been consultation with young people and it was from their comments that it had been decided to recommend that an independent person be selected as the next Champion for Children and Young People.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- There were logistical problems with schools running the elections that needed to be overcome
- There were further logistical problems around the possibility of electronic voting. Schools were already stretched and it was felt that it would be difficult for children to access any material to do with the selection of the Champion within lesson times
- Some Members, who had spoken with young people regarding the selection of a Children and Young People's Champion, reported back that the young people thought that an elected Member could not be impartial as they were affiliated to a political party. It was the young people who wanted an independent person as the next Champion
- It was noted that young people felt that they would like to move towards a more formal election process
- Some Members felt that an independent person would not have as much authority to support young people as an elected Member
- The Council Constitution says that Champions should be elected Members. It was felt that it was too short notice to ask for a review of the constitution but this could be done at a later date if it was considered necessary
- Problems associated with fairness and process at the last election needed to be addressed
- May was not a good time for schools as they were busy with SATS and other exams. The best time for schools would be in the lead up to Christmas
- Members generally agreed that an 'electronic' voting system was definitely worthwhile and there were several options surrounding this. Some Members mentioned the possibility of working with local universities and colleges on this. It was noted that any charges in excess of £10,000 would mean that more than one quote would be needed
- Members asked Officers to find out if there were already software packages available; 'I'm a Councillor, get me out of here' was mentioned and Officers agreed to re-look at this as a possibility
- Some Members thought that an electronic voting system would need a commitment from Corporate IT
- Concerns were raised around the security of an electronic voting system

- Members felt that it was a priority to move this forward as soon as possible and were reluctant to wait until May before the selection of a new Children and Young People's Champion

Advice of the Advisory Panel

That the Executive Member be advised:

- (i) That The Children and Young People's Champion remain an elected Member
- (ii) That a new Member Champion for Children and Young People be elected as soon as possible
- (iii) That Officers explore the possibilities of an ICT based election
- (iv) That the issues regarding process and fairness that arose in the last election be addressed
- (v) That the format of the ICT process be delegated to Officers and the Executive Members and Shadow Executive Members for Children's Services and Youth and Social Inclusion.

Decision of the Executive Member

RESOLVED: That the advice of the Advisory Panel be accepted and endorsed.

REASON: To ensure that a cross-section of children and young people have an opportunity to talk with the candidates face to face, as well as extending the option to vote to the maximum amount of children and young people at a reasonable cost.

20. Executive Member for Children's Services Remarks

The Executive Member for Children's Services noted that Patrick Scott, Director of Learning, Culture & Children's Services and Jenny Vickers, Assistant Director (Standards & Quality), Learning Culture & Children's Services were both retiring and thanked them for the service they had provided to the City particularly in relation to young people. The Committee joined the Executive Member in their thanks.

Cllr C Runciman
Executive Member for Children's Services

Cllr K Aspden
Executive Member for Youth & Social Inclusion

Cllr J Alexander; Chair of Advisory Panel
The meeting started at 6.10 pm and finished at 8.20 pm.